posures, particularly when making, from a recent specimen, the drawing which accompanies this account.

I apprehend that a majority of persons are not liable to the injurious effects of the poisonous sumacs. Among persons residing in the country, exposures must occur very frequently from the abundance of these shrubs, especially of the Rhus radicans, by roadsides and elsewhere. Very few however, in proportion to the number exposed, have personal experience of their deleterious effects. In those on the contrary, in whom a constitutional liability to the poison exists, the disease frequently returns several times during life, notwithstanding the utmost precaution in avoiding its causes. A gentleman residing in the country informed me, that he had been seven times poisoned to the most violent degree. In such constitutions a slight exposure is sufficient to excite the disease. I have known individuals badly poisoned in winter from the wood of the Rhus vernix, accidentally burnt on the fire. Others have made the same observation.

Some farther remarks on the poison of these shrubs, and on the treatment of the disease occasioned by them, will be made in a future part of this work, under the head of *Rhus radicans.*

Many interesting observations on the properties of these species of Sumach, will be found in an inaugural dissertation, by Dr. Thomas Horsfield of Bethlehem, Pa. a work of much industry and merit.

In the New York Medical Repository is an account of a swarm of bees, which, having alighted on the branches of the Rhus vernix, were the next day found dead, with their bodies black and swollen. This is a remarkable circumstance. There is certainly no instinctive aversion in these animals for the tree. In the flowering season the blossoms, which are very fragrant, are always thronged with a multitude of winged insects in quest of their honey.

The introduction of the juice into the arts will not perhaps take place among us, during the present high price of labour, and the general prejudice which exists against the shrub. In some future period, it is probable that a substance, which is found so valuable in the eastern countries, will not be neglected among us. It might safely be procured by persons not subject to the poison, and, with proper precautions, would injure no one during its preparation and use. A pound of the juice in a day might be collected by an individual. When thoroughly dry, it ceases to emit an

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